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great variety of occasions, and showing in no instance marks of elaboration, or wilful poetizing. They are occasional, in the better sense of being true, in their whole tone and character, and form even, to the event, or thought, or sentiment, which gave birth to them. They have, therefore, what is not too common in our day, an air of genuineness and reality. They express what their author really felt, and were so written because that mode of expression was the truest setting forth of what he felt. They seem natural, because they were in fact spontaneous. This is one secret of their power over the minds of those whose privilege it was to be admitted to a place in the companionship and affections of Dr. Croswell, — himself a man of rare excellence of character, and of no less rare modesty ; and it may suggest a reason also, why, though the sentiment is always pure and worthy, and the language choice and fit, these poems may not attain any very wide or rapid popularity. They will, no doubt, be cherished by that not too large band of kindred spirits, who, while not undervaluing a brilliant imagination, or the graces of fancy, do yet more fondly take to their hearts, and retain in reverent memory, the true and simple expressions of devout feeling and earnest affection. Those must share in the *churchly* temper of the author, also, who can fully enter into the meaning, and enjoy the peculiar fragrance, of these poems. The general reader will value them more as tokens of what their writer might have done. They certainly indicate a capacity for much higher efforts than the volume anywhere contains, beautiful as some of the pieces are ; and we feel, while reading them, that Dr. Croswell's singular reticence of character has defrauded the world of much poetry of no mean worth.

Dr. Coxe has prefixed to the volume a sketch of the life and character of Dr. Croswell, very gracefully written, and abounding in genial and appreciative criticism. A more fit editor could hardly have been found, — himself a poet of no slight ability, and, by all the sympathies of character and office, enabled to discern in his friend those qualities of mind and heart, which, if they hindered his devotion to poetry, made him something of a higher order than a poet.

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13. — *Discourse on the Life and Character of the Hon. Littleton Waller Tazewell, delivered in the Freemason Street Baptist Church, before the Bar of Norfolk, Virginia, and the Citizens generally, on the 29th day of June, 1860.* By HUGH BLAIR GRIGSBY, LL. D. Norfolk : J. D. Ghiselin, Jr. 1860. 8vo. pp. 123.

MR. TAZEWELL was one of the most conspicuous men of Virginia in his day, and this volume by Mr. Grigsby is a fit memorial of his

worth. His ancestors were persons of very high respectability, his father having been an eminent lawyer, Judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals, and United States Senator from the same State. The subject of this memoir was born in Williamsburg, Virginia, December 17, 1774, and received his education at William and Mary College. His early youth and college life were passed under the excellent influence and domestic control of Chancellor Wythe and Bishop Madison, to whom he seems to have owed much of the noble impulse that made his later career so high-minded and successful. He was admitted to practice in the Virginia courts in 1796, and having already, by the display of talents of uncommon promise, attracted the attention of the leading politicians, who were the great men, also, of the State, he was induced, in the fever of political excitement then raging, to enter political life, and represented James City County in the House of Delegates, when only twenty-one years old. He occupied the same position in the Legislature till the year 1800. The Legislature of Virginia was, at that period, a school of singular excellence for the training of the youthful politician. Topics so exciting as Jay's Treaty and the Virginia Resolutions of 1799 were subjects of hot debate, and were illustrated by the wisdom and eloquence of such men as James Barbour, Cabell, Giles, the Taylors, Nicholas, and Madison. When John Marshall was made Secretary of State by Mr. Adams, in 1800, he was succeeded in the lower house of the Congress of the United States by Mr. Tazewell, then in his twenty-sixth year. His experience of those stormy times in Congress seems to have quenched any fondness for public life which he may have previously entertained, and he voluntarily relinquished a prospect of success in that career such as was then open before few men of his age in this country, and, having changed his residence to Norfolk, gave himself up to the practice of his profession. He continued to reside in Norfolk till his death, in 1860, growing prosperous with the growth of her prosperity, and always, to the last, the pride and ornament of that city. Though not without a deep interest in the progress of public affairs, he abstained from seeking any active share in them. He seems to have thus abstained, partly from native modesty, partly from a preference for a more quiet and domestic life, and very much, no doubt, from a sentiment, which was with him a controlling principle, that under our government political offices are to be accepted, not sought. In 1816, however, he was, in his absence from home and without his knowledge, again chosen a member of the House of Delegates. When he was already preparing to retire altogether from the bar, and to give up the public service in every way,—he had always contemplated such a

retirement at an early period of his life, — he was elected, in 1824, to the Senate of the United States. Having resigned his seat in the Senate in 1833, he was almost immediately chosen Governor of Virginia. He resigned this office also before the close of his term. In 1829 he represented the District of Norfolk in the Convention which revised the first Constitution of Virginia. The brilliancy of his eloquence and the overpowering force of his logic, as exhibited both in the Senate-chamber and in the Convention, are yet fresh in the memory of his countrymen. In those high places he stood, as at least their equal, among the noblest spirits of his own State, and of the whole country; in genius, learning, political foresight, and eloquence, side by side with Monroe, Leigh, Mercer, and Doddridge in the one, and with Barbour, Hayne, Clay, and Webster in the other, not less than the peer of the best and greatest of them all.

Notwithstanding these public honors, and the public claims on his services, he seems to have disliked the whole business of politics, and always, when he could escape from the demands of his fellow-citizens, to have been far happier in the enjoyment of domestic repose, and the more quiet duties of his profession. And perhaps the bar was his more appropriate sphere. He loved the study of the law; his best efforts as an orator were made in behalf of his clients; and his reputation as a lawyer was not less eminent, or less prized by him, than that which he gained as a statesman. His researches in legal science were carried far beyond those of most men who are called great lawyers; and in the presentation of his cases either to court or jury, he had hardly a rival in the range of his practice. It is a rare occurrence in the experience of any lawyer in this country to be consulted, as he was, at the same time, “by London merchants on the custom of London, and by the priests of Rome on the Canon Law.” In private and domestic life he showed himself equally a great, and more conspicuously a good man; and when he went down to the grave, at the age of eighty-five, the universal mourning of those who knew him best amply attested his singular excellence.

The memoir by Mr. Grigsby, while it develops the character of Mr. Tazewell, and recounts the events of his life in a very attractive manner, derives an additional value and interest to us from the copious, and evidently faithful, sketches given us of the more distinguished associates and friends who flourished with him, and of the original characters who, by their wit or peculiarities of manner, in their day enlivened and amused the people of Norfolk. The portraits are drawn with much skill and fine discrimination, and sometimes with a nice sense of the ludicrous. To the antiquary, and to all who are fond of

tracing the changes in manners and localities which time brings about, Mr. Grigsby's descriptions of the city of Norfolk, in the various periods and phases of its history, will prove highly gratifying. Were we disposed to find fault with a work which has given us so much pleasure, we might notice what seems to us, who look at these things from a distance, a tendency, certainly a very natural one, to exaggerate somewhat the proportions of the figures on his canvas, and, in one or two instances, a corresponding but slight tendency to grandiloquence. Yet, in the main, we commend it as almost a model for productions of its kind.

14. — *The Moravians in North Carolina. An Authentic History.* By REV. LEVIN T. REICHEL, of Salem, N. C. Salem: O. A. Keehln. 18mo. pp. 206.

THIS is a brief and simple statement of the leading facts in the history of a most interesting branch of the Christian Church. The men who have been most serviceable in planting and rearing the Unitas Fratrum in North Carolina are fitly commemorated in the relation of their deeds, but with no attempt at eulogy or especial commendation. Their growth from a feeble band of adventurers, who crossed the wilderness from Pennsylvania in 1752, to a large, well-organized, and prosperous community in 1852, their unwearying labors, their love of peace and good neighborhood, their patient hope, their earnest and steadfast adherence to their faith, are all told, with no aim at literary refinement, but with a simplicity and plainness that well befit the modest, humble character of the society.

15. — *Memoir of James, Marquis of Montrose, K. G., Captain-General of Scotland.* By JAMES GRANT. With Illustrations. London: George Routledge & Co. 12mo. pp. 396.

THE author of this life of the famous Graham of Montrose is well known to the readers of works of fiction by a series of semi-historical books, the most of which are quite interesting as novels, and not without value as sketches of historical events. His practice in this species of composition must have been a fit training for the higher effort of delineating a career so picturesque and a character so chivalrous as those of Montrose. Yet his old habit of relying mainly on his imagination for the materials as well as for the coloring of his works, may justify some measure of distrust when he offers us a genuine biography,